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The CIA and American Labor

GEORGE MORRIS'S new book, "The CIA and American Labor" was released last Friday by International Publishers (paper \$1.25) Morris, who has been for many years the labor editor of The Worker, has more than three decades of experience as reporter and commentator on the American labor movement.

Below are excerpts from a chapter of Morris's book, which we feel will be of particular interest to our readers.

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AS THE NSA exposure was featured in blazing headlines, Victor Reuther told the press, "there is a lot bigger story in the CIA's financial and other connections with the AFL-CIO than with students. . . . I did my best to try to lift the lid on it. And some day it will come out" (New York Post, Feb. 16, 1967). Within days many of these connections were revealed. The following is a summary of the revelations concerning the trade unions and the CIA as they were reported during the last two weeks of February 1967. In general, these facts substantiate or enlarge upon charges previously made, and which are analyzed and discussed in this book.

With two CIA agents in charge of its international affairs department, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFL-CIO) received at least \$60,000 annually to finance its work, in Latin America, from perhaps as early as 1958 until 1964. In that last year Jerry Wurf defeated the incumbent president of the union, Arnold Zander, ousted the two CIA men and cut relations with the agency. As Zander himself revealed (Washington Post, Feb. 23), the union's international department was for six years a cover for CIA operations in British Guiana (now Guyana) and had an active hand in the campaign of rioting and sabotage against the Jagan government. The AFSCME also spent CIA money in the name of the Public Services International, an ICFU affiliate with headquarters in London, as Zander claimed, for the "organization of public

workers all over the world, "especially in Latin America and Africa." Apparently, those CIA-financed activities had priority over the organization of millions of public workers not in unions in this country.

The ICFU's International Federation of Petroleum and Chemical Workers, with headquarters in Denver, was used similarly as a cover for CIA activity. It was headed by O. A. Knight until 1965, when he retired from the presidencies of both the International Federation and the International Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (AFL-CIO). An AFL-CIO vice-president until his retirement, Knight had long been involved in Latin American committees and projects of the federation. During Knight's tenure, it was disclosed, the ICFU's affiliate received a monthly subsidy of \$25,000 from a CIA conduit, the Andrew Hamilton Foundation, with a Philadelphia address. Other foundations fronting for the CIA channeled more hundreds of thousands of dollars to Knight's organization (Washington Post, Feb. 23).

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THE AMERICAN Newspaper Guild, one of the AFL-CIO's smallest unions, appeared to be the recipient of the largest sums from CIA dummy foundations. Charles Perlik, secretary-treasurer of the Guild, admitted receiving \$1,004,000 within three years from several funds identified as CIA channels. The organization whose work was financed by the CIA is known as the Inter-American Federation of Working Newspapermen's Organizations of which Perlik is co-chairman. Like many others caught in the CIA's web, Perlik professed surprise when the source of the funds was exposed. And like others, he claimed that irrespective of the source of the funds, the work of the Guild — mainly in Latin America, but also in Asia and Africa, through the parent International Federation of Journalists in Brussels — was "independent" and in no way influenced by the CIA.

Following the exposures, as a wave of anger spread in the Guild's chapters, the Guild Reporter (Feb. 24) carried a long report by ANG International affairs director Richard P. Davis. He assured the members that their money was untouched, because all salaries and expenditures of his department were covered by "foundation grants." This, of course, means CIA grants.

Another union that showed extraordinary interest in world activities is the Retail Clerks International Association; its president, James Suffridge, is a vice-president of the AFL-CIO and a very close friend of Meany. Suffridge, too, professed surprise at the disclosure that the same Granary Fund which funneled CIA funds to NSA, the Newspaper Guild and other organizations, gave the RCIA \$38,000 in 1965 — to mention one item that came to light. The RCIA, one of America's most bureaucratically run unions, had two of its officials among the corps of AFL-CIO advisers who came to guide the Guyanese to "freedom." Among them was George P. O'Keefe, head of the international affairs department of Suffridge's union. The RCIA used the ICFU's International Federation of Clerical and Technical Employees as its instrument for operations in other lands.

Still another trade secretariat of the ICFU, the International Association of Food and Allied Workers Associations, with headquarters in Geneva, was used as a cover for CIA agents, according to Juul E. Poulson, general secretary of that body (New York Times, Feb. 23). Poulson confirmed Victor Reuther's charge of nine months earlier (which was denied by the AFL-CIO Executive Council in August 1966) that eight men in Panama and one in Colombia posed as representatives of his organization, although they were unknown in headquarters. These men, added Poulson, were taking orders from Andrew C. McLellan, AFL-CIO director of Latin American affairs, working under Lovestone.

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